Heraclitus Ridens:

AT

A Dialogue between Jeſt and Earneſt, concerning the Times.

Tueſday, September the 6th. 1681.

Jeſt. AS mad as *March*-Hares, I proteſt.

Earn. Why, ſure *Midſummer*-Moon will not laſt all the year long, will it think you?

Jeſt. Yes, I think it will, and the Dog-days too; I believe we ſhall have a hot Winter on't.

Earn. And pray what is the matter now?

Jeſt. There's a queſtion: Why? as if you did not know that the *Scotch* Parliament were lugging in Popery by the Head and Ears, by the two Acts.

Earn. What, the *Act for Recognizing the Succeſſion*, and the other *for ſecuring the Proteſtant Religion as by Law eſtabliſhed*, againſt the Whiggs and Papiſts?

Jeſt. Ay, ay, there's wiſe work indeed they ſay.

Earn. What, to *ſecure the Proteſtant Religion*, is to *bring in Popery*, is it? theſe People have been long poſſeſſed with the ſpirit of Contradiction, and now the Devil of Nonſence is got into them too.

Jeſt. Oh there's a thick Diſguiſe they ſay upon Affairs, and unleſs you have a pair of Whig-ſpectacles, there's no ſeeing through it.

Earn. Nay, there I agree with them, that there is a thick Diſguiſe, but the Viſor is falling off, and ere long we ſhall ſee who and who are together; and then we ſhall find that Jeſuit and Whig drive on the ſame Deſign againſt his Majeſties Life and the Eſtabliſhed Government.

Jeſt. Well, I never ſaw the Rogues in ſuch a pelting chaſe before, they are almoſt melted in their own greaſe; they puff and blow, and ſweat, and fret, and fume, and foam, at this *Act of the Succeſſion*. I believe they are afraid it ſhould be an ill preſident for an Engliſh Parliament.

Earn. Come; there's no need for it, that's done to their hands already: let's walk them a little; for they have run their heats, and muſt be rubb'd down well.

Jeſt. What, you'l turn Jockey too I warrant, you have a mind to curry them a little: but have a care of touching the gall'd place; for if you do, they'l kick.

Earn. Let 'em kick and hang if they will; I have ſome *Parliament-Barnacles* to clap upon their Noſes.

Jeſt. Ay, ſure thoſe will make them patient. Come, let's ſee how you will go to work with them,

Earn. Firſt, I will go to work with them by the way of the 35 *H*, 8. *c.* 1. which acknowledges, "the determination of the great point of Succeſſion "to the Crown, to be only inherent in the Crown, and for this purpoſe an Oath is therein framed, which is ſtill in force to curb the authority of the Pope who was *then* the great ſtickler, in diſpoſing the ſucceſſion to Crowns as *now* the Whiggs are; and ſo abſolutely was this Power by that Act declared to be in the King, that after the limitations to all of the Royal Family then in being, and their Heirs according to proximity in blood, it was wholly in the Kings Power, in default of the Heirs of the bodies of the Right Line, to declare his Heir by Will under his Gracious Hand. Nay, to endeavour to alter or repeal this Act is made *High Treaſon*.

Jeſt. Why, ſure it will not come to that at laſt?

Earn. Even ſo, Beloved, I aſſure you, and for your ſatisfaction you ſhall hear one Clauſe of that Act. "Be it enacted, *&c.* That if any perſon or "perſons of what ſtate, degree, dignity or Condi-"tion ſoever they be, at any time hereafter by "words, writing, imprinting, or by any exteriour "act or deed, maliciouſly or willingly procure or "do, or cauſe to be done, or procure directly or "indirectly any thing or things to or for the inter-"ruption, repeal, or annullation of this Act, or of "any thing therein contained, or of any thing "that ſhall be done by the Kings Highneſs in the "Limitation and diſpoſition of his Majeſties "Crown, and other the premiſſes by Authority of "the ſame, or to the peril, or ſlander, or diſinhe-"riſon of any of the Iſſues and Heirs of the Kings "Majeſty being limited by this Act to inherit, and "to be inheritable to the Crown of this Realm, in "ſuch form as is aforeſaid; or to the interruption "or diſinheriſon of any perſon or perſons to "whom the Imperial Crown of this Realm and o-"ther the premiſſes, as aſſigned, limited and appoint-"ed by this Act, whereby any ſuch Iſſues or Heirs "of the Kings Majeſty, or ſuch other perſon or "perſons might be deſtroyed, diſturbed or inter-"rupted in Body or Title of the inheritance of the "Crown of this Realm, as to them is limited in this "Act in form above rehearſed, or as to them ſhall "be limited or aſſigned by the Kings Highneſs by "virtue and authority of this Act; that then e-"very ſuch perſon or perſons of what Eſtate, de-"gree or Condition ſoever he or they be, and "their Aiders, Counſellors, maintainers and ab-"bettors and every of them for ſuch offence afore "declared, ſhall be adjudged High Traytors, and

"ſhall

"shall suffer pains of Death and losses, and forfeitures as "in Cases of High Treason, being lawfully convict of any "such offence after the Laws and Customs of this Realm.

Jest. Well, and what do you make of all this long story?

Earn. I make this of it, that the intention of this Act of setling the Succession, is first to keep it in the lineal and regular descent: 2ly, To shew that in case of ambiguity in the right Line the power of disposing of the Crown is intirely in the King, and that it is something with a hard name for any other person or persons to attempt it.

Jest. Come, make this out, or otherwise your Old *Harry* Groat will not be worth two pence.

Earn. Well! have patience, and you shall see this is good and Currant Law of *England*; and first by the 1 *Ed.* 6. *c.* 12. where several Acts of Treasons and Felonies are repealed, this Act is confirmed and explained in these words: "And be it Enacted, *&c.* That if any of the "Heirs of our said Sovereign Lord that now is, or any "person or persons to whom the Crown and dignity of "this Realm is limited and appointed by the Act of "35 *H.* 8. or the Heirs of any of them, do at any time "hereafter usurp the one of them upon the other in the "Crown of this Realm, or demand, challenge or claim "the same otherwise, or in any other form or degree "of descent or Succession, or in any other Course, form, "degree or Condition, but only in such manner and "form as is declared by the said Statute; or if any of "said Heirs or persons aforesaid do interrupt, or let the "Kings Highness that now is, peaceably and quietly to "keep, have and enjoy the said Imperial Crown; that "then all and singular the Offenders, their aiders, com-"forters, abettors, procurers and Counsellors therein, "shall be deemed and adjudged High Traitors, and shall "suffer and incur the pains of Death, loss and Forfeitures "as is aforesaid in Cases of High Treason. So that you see the first Design of this Act of 35 *H.* 8. is explained, to keep the Royal Line in its due Succession and Course of Descent, and that any future Heir of any of the persons to whom it is limited, with all their adherents, who shall attempt to usurp upon anothers right, are declared Traytors.

Jest. This is a piece of Treason which *Franck Smiths* Elephant never thought of, for it is not in his *Landmark*; but it may be these Acts are out of Doors.

Earn. Nay, soft and fair goes far in a Day; I now come to shew you that this Act of Old *Harry*'s is still in force.

Jest. Ay, marry Sir, then you'l make a very pretty piece of business on't.

Earn. Well! then Sir, You must know there is a certain Statute 1 *Eliz.* *c.* 3. intituled *An Act for Recognition of the Queens Highness to the Imperial Crown of this Realm*, which never was, nor I presume never will be repealed: and in this Act, the Queens Title is acknowledged, and that she is rightly, and lineally, and lawfully descended and come of the blood Royal of this Realm of *England*. 2dly, Her faithful and obedient Subjects representing the three Estates of her Realm of *England* constrained by the Law of God and Man, submit themselves, their Heirs and posterities for ever to this Recognition. Where by the way take notice, that by Act of Parliament there are three Estates, *viz. Lords Spiritual, Temporal and Commons*, who are Subjects to the King, so that the King is not one of the three Estates, as our Whiggish Co ordinate State-Fanaticks would persuade people.

Jest. This is killing two birds with one stone, but pray go forward.

Earn. 3dly, They promise to defend this Title to the utmost of their powers, and therein to spend their Bodies, Lands and Goods against all persons whatsoever, that any thing shall attempt to the contrary. 4thly, They desire that the Act of the 35 of *H.* 8. for the succession of the Imperial Crown of this Realm may stand, remian and be the Law of the Land for ever, and that all Acts, Sentences, Decrees, *&c.* to the contrary may be repealed and put in perpetual Oblivion for ever. So said, so done, and the Act of 35 *H.* 8. is now in full force, power and strength.

Jest. Oh brave Queen *Elizabeth* Tory Protestants! but it may be this was only for her life.

Earn. That was as Whiggishly objected as ever I heard in my life; What, was the World at an end with Queen *Elizabeth?* is it not to be the Law of the Land *for ever*? Nay, did not King *James* succeed her as the next of the Royal Line according to the Tenor and intent of that Act? It's a plain case, the Act of Recognition 1 *Jac.* *c.* 1. tells you, "That King *James* was lineally, rightfully and "lawfully descended of the body of the Lady *Margaret*, "eldest Daughter to King *H.* 7. Sister to King *H.* 8. "and therefore that immediately upon the decease of "Queen *Elizabeth* the Imperial Crown of the Realm "of *England*, and of all the Kingdoms, Dominions and "Rights belonging to the same, did by inherent Birth-"right and lawful and undoubted Succession descend and "come to his Most Excellent Majesty as being lineally, "justly and lawfully next and sole Heir of the blood Royal "of this Realm.

Jest. Well, if this be the Law of *England*, and the Law of God too, and as by the 35 of *H.* 8. it be High Treason to endeavour to repeal the one, and impossible for any humane authority to alter the other, some people have brought their Hogs to a fair market.

Earn. What will Mr. *Character-man* say to this point?

Jest. Say, quoth he, I cannot tell what all the dablers of the Tribe will say to High Treason, I know nothing they have to say but a Psalm of Mercy. Here's humming doings indeed.

Earn. Did not I tell you that we had already as smart Laws to secure the Succession in the lineal Descent, as any can be made, either in *Scotland* or *England*.

Jest. Well! the Whiggs had best look to their Hirs and their Petitions and Addresses about a Successor; if they catch me offering to alter the succession to Crowns, I'le give them leave to call me all the Fools that they are.

Earn. I cannot but fancy with what a swoop this Net will take your *Vox Populi*'s, and *Vox Patriæ*'s, your *Vox Veritatis*, your *Dicks*, and *Cates*, and *Mayors*.

Jest. And will it catch the Elephant Birds too think ye?

Earn. As fast as a Glass and a Net catches Larks.

Jest. Come, let us catch a few *Quere*s then.

Earn. Quere 1. Whether the great concern, and the prayers of the Conventicklers in their Meeting-houses, for the safe deliverance of the *Protestant Joyner*, does not evidently manifest that they are of the same kidney, and e'en like to like, quoth the Devil to the Collier!?

2. Whether he being a notorious *Traitor*, they are not *Comforters*, *Aiders*, and *Abettors* of him? and by what Spirit they were inspired who pretended to seek God for the deliverance of a Rebel from the hand of Justice?

3. Whether ever they prayed so heartily for the life of their King as they did for this Fellow, who would have taken away the Kings life, had his power been proportionable to his Will?

4. Whether all good Christians are not bound to praise God for giving the Curst Cow short Horns; and to praise and thank the King for keeping the Staff of Prerogative in his own hands?

5 Whether the Great Zeal and heat of the Whiggs against his Majesties Guards does not now begin plainly to appear to have been for something, and whether if he had trusted to the affections of these *true Protestants*, they would not have guarded him fairly as they did his Royal Father?

6. Whether one must not strain Courtesie to suppose these men of Tender Conscience abhor the *Treason*, who do tenderly hug the *Traytor*?

7. Whether Whig, and the Devil may not lye for the Whetstone; and whether any body will hereafter believe either the one, if he says, he *fears God*, or the other when he says he *Honours the King*?

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